

Appl. No. 10/605,096
Amdt. dated May 05, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 07, 2005

REMARKS

1. Objection to the drawings:

- 5 The Examiner has indicated that the "signal transferring device mounted in the frame for transferring signals from the peripheral device to the main board" must be shown in the drawings or cancelled from the claims.
- 10 The applicant argues that the "signal transferring device" is presently illustrated as element 22 in Fig.4. Clearly, the illustrated element 22 meets all limitations of the amended claims: a) it is "mounted on the frame" (claim 1), b) it is connected to cables 222 "for transferring signals from the
- 15 peripheral device to the main board" (claims 1 and 5), and c) it is a flat element with cables attached that could easily be a circuit board without further depiction (claim 5).

The applicant respectfully requests that this objection be

20 withdrawn.

2. Claim amendments:

Claims 1-6 are amended to more narrowly recite the dimensions

25 of the invention and also to recite the invention in better terms. Notably, the "slim peripheral devices" to which the invention applies are clearly defined in terms of a "standard-height peripheral device". All added limitations are clearly described

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in the original disclosure and figures. No new matter is entered.

Claims 7 and 8 are added to better recite the invention. Although claims 7 and 8 include some new terminology such as "open U-shaped box" and "vector", all added limitations are clearly described in the original disclosure and figures. No new matter is entered.

Consideration of all claim amendments and all new claims is respectfully requested.

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3. Rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (US 6,293,636) in view of Christensen et al. (US 5,333,097):

15 Since a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) must provide a combination that addresses all limitations of the claims, this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendments to claims 1-4 and 6.

20 Specifically, the combination does not teach or suggest "a plurality of slim peripheral devices, the sum of the heights of the plurality of slim peripheral devices being less than the height of the standard-height peripheral device" as recited in the amended claim 1. Le teaches a kind of quick-access complex peripheral module 102 (col. 1, lines 55-59). The peripheral devices used by Le are of standard height, and as such, could all be fit efficiently inside Le's computer 100 without use of the complex peripheral module 102. The above-quoted limitation

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requires peripheral devices that are slimmer than standard. Looking at Le, to hypothetically meet this claimed limitation, there would have to exist a peripheral device having the dimensions of Le's aperture 154. Christensen also only addresses
5 standard height peripheral devices.

The other amendments to claim 1 are also made to emphasize the above-explained differences. In addition, new claim 7 is presented to emphasize the differences above in terms of the
10 openings for securing the slim peripheral devices, while new claim 8 is presented to emphasize another difference regarding the "signal transferring device".

The Examiner might consider these to be obvious or trivial
15 differences, however, the applicant contends that they are not. The claims recite an adaptor-like device that can be used to efficiently apply slim peripheral devices to the plethora of existing standard side slots. The combination does not teach this, rather, the combination only addresses standard-height devices.
20 The combination also does not suggest this since Le's and Christensen's peripheral devices would all efficiently fit inside their respective computers in spite of anything that could be considered their respective "adaptors". Actually the "adaptors" themselves in Le and Christensen use up more space
25 than they make available.

Reconsideration of the amended claims 1-4 and 6 is requested in view of the above. Claims 2-4 and 6 are dependent on claim 1 and

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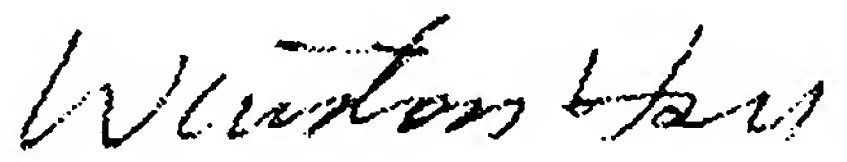
should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

4. Rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
unpatentable over Le, as modified, as applied to claim 1 above,
5 and further in view of Ohtsuka et al. (US 5,778,254):

Reconsideration of the amended claim 5 is requested in view of
the amendments to claim 1. Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1 and
should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,



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to me. The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e.
9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan).